

REMARKS

Claims 3-20 are added. Claims 1-20 are pending. Support for the new claims are found at pages 6-10 of the specification. Further, Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claim 2 is amended for clarity while the amendment to Claim 1 is supported at Table 1 at page 13 of the specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the above amendment.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Hartley for the helpful discussions of the present application, which are summarized and expanded upon below. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Hartley for indicating that the above amendments, combined with the remarks below would favorably further prosecution of the present application.

The rejections of Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or § 102(e) and/or § 103(a) over any one of Accetta et al., Townsend III et al., and/or Rueggeberg et al. alone or in any combination thereof is believed to be obviated by the above amendment, combined with the remarks below.

Accetta et al. disclose, at best, a solution containing 0.75% fluorescein sodium in a solvent. However, Accetta et al. fails to disclose or suggest altogether a detection material for initial dental caries containing from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight of at least one dye selected from the group consisting of fluorescein sodium, fluorescein potassium, dibromofluorescein sodium, and dibromofluorescein potassium compound in a solvent.

Townsend III et al. discloses, at best, a solution containing 0.025% fluorescein sodium in a solvent. However, Townsend III et al. fails to disclose or suggest altogether a detection material for initial dental caries containing from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight of at least one dye selected from the group consisting of fluorescein sodium, fluorescein potassium, dibromofluorescein sodium, and dibromofluorescein potassium compound in a solvent.

Rueggeberg et al. discloses, at best, a solution containing 1.0% fluorescein sodium in a solvent. However, Rueggeberg et al. fails to disclose or suggest altogether a detection

material for initial dental caries containing from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight of at least one dye selected from the group consisting of fluorescein sodium, fluorescein potassium, dibromofluorescein sodium, and dibromofluorescein potassium compound in a solvent.

In direct contrast to the above references, the present invention relates to a detection material for initial dental caries containing from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight of at least one dye selected from the group consisting of fluorescein sodium, fluorescein potassium, dibromofluorescein sodium, and dibromofluorescein potassium compound in a solvent.

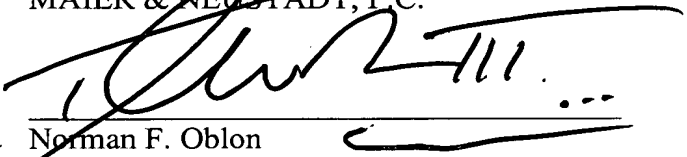
In light of the above, all of Accetta et al., Townsend III et al., and/or Rueggeberg et al. fail to disclose or suggest that their respective compositions may contain from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight of at least one dye selected from the group consisting of fluorescein sodium, fluorescein potassium, dibromofluorescein sodium, and dibromofluorescein potassium compound in a solvent. Further, none of Accetta et al., Townsend III et al., and/or Rueggeberg et al. provide a single exemplified solution containing any one of the claimed dyes at a concentration ranging from 0.04 to 0.3% by weight. Therefore, not only does Accetta et al., Townsend III et al., and/or Rueggeberg et al. fail to disclose the claimed invention, none of these reference provide sufficient specificity of a suggestion to motivate one reading their disclosures towards the claimed invention. Accordingly, none of Accetta et al., Townsend III et al., and/or Rueggeberg et al. disclose or suggest the claimed invention and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/017,595  
Reply to Office Action of May 15, 2003

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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